



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

First Named
Inventor : Matthew M. Johnston

Appln. No.: 09/917,363

Filed : July 27, 2001

For : TECHNIQUE FOR MEASURING SMALL
DISTANCES BETWEEN, AND FOR
MEASURING THE FLATNESS OF,
ELECTRICALLY CONDUCTIVE
SURFACES

Docket No.: S01.12-0734/STL 9752

Group Art Unit: 2856

Examiner: Charles
Garber

2856
6/Response
P. Walker
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RESPONSE

Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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A. Rego
PATENT ATTORNEY

Sir:

This is in response to the Office Action dated June 20, 2003. In the Office Action, all pending claims 9-19 and 21-28 were rejected. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims.

I. REJECTION OF CLAIM UNDER 35 U.S.C. §112

On page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claim 17 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement.

Claim 17 depends from independent claim 9 and therefore includes all the limitations of claim 9. Thus, claim 17 includes "holding a first surface a known separation distance from a second . . . surface . . .," wherein "the first surface is a test surface of a rotating disc, and wherein a plurality of force measurements are performed between the test surface and the second surface . . ., and wherein defects in the test surface are determined by comparing . . . the measured exerted force values."